

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/720,307	SONODA ET AL.
	Examiner Nathanael R. Briggs	Art Unit 2871

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to amendment filed 10/13/2006.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 6-11 and 16-23.
3. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All
 - b) Some*
 - c) None
 of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____.

Nathanael Briggs
12/26/2006

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 6-11 and 16-23 are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:
3. Claim 7 recites an LCD device with pixel electrodes having a plurality of circular patterns connected to at least two neighboring circular patterns within the pixel electrode, and where a group of circular patterns are shifted one half pitch from a neighboring group of circular patterns. The prior art does not disclose the device of claim 7. Claim 7 is therefore allowed, as are its dependent claims 6, 8-11 and 16-23.
4. Takatori et al. (US 6,504,592), Suzuki et al. (US 7,006,180), Okumura et al. (US 6,924,856), and Kressmann et al. (US 6,842,212) each disclose an LCD with pixel electrodes having groups of connected circular patterns. However, they do not disclose wherein each circular pattern is connected to at least two neighboring circular patterns within the pixel electrode, or where a group of circular patterns are shifted one half pitch from a neighboring group of circular patterns.
5. Miyachi et al. (US 6,384,889) discloses an LCD with pixel electrodes having circular patterns, where each group of patterns are deviated one half pitch from another adjacent group. However, each pattern is not connected to at least two other patterns.
6. Okada et al. (US 6,894,752) discloses an LCD with circular pixel electrodes, wherein the electrodes are shifted one half pitch with respect to a neighboring row of electrodes. However, Okada does not disclose wherein groups of circular patterns

within each pixel electrode are shifted one half pitch with respect to a neighboring group of patterns.

7. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

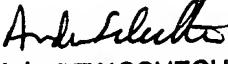
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nathanael R. Briggs whose telephone number is (571) 272-8992. The examiner can normally be reached on 9 AM - 5:30 PM Monday through Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Nelms can be reached on (571) 272-1787. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Nathanael Briggs
12/26/2006



ANDREW SCHECHTER
PRIMARY EXAMINER